314 negligible. Turpentine is produced at any season of the year. The first cut in trees is made about 20 or 25 cm. (8 or 10 in.) from the ground, with a small ax called gúrbia. The initial cut is one-half cm. vertically and 10 cm. horizontally. At the base of the cut a small copper or pottery cup is fastened. The initial cut is lengthened upward each year until, after about 10 years, the cut is 1.50 to 1.70 m. in height. A cut is then started on the opposite side of the tree. Formerly it was the practice to leave the cup for collecting the resin at the bottom of the cut. This wasted considerable resin, and now the cup is raised as the height of the cut is increased. In order to lead the resin into the cup, a small sheet of metal is driven into the tree just above the cup. The cup is emptied every 3 days and the cut cleaned or enlarged.

The collected resin or *brea* is cooked in special stills. An *olla* of resin is placed above a fire-
[323] box (fig. 2). The cover and "coil" are made of pottery (in the village of Patamban), and the turpentine is caught in another vessel. Before the decline in turpentine prices caused by World War II, a kilo of resin sold at 8 centavos in the woods and a 5-gallon tin of turpentine
[435] sold at 18 pesos. In 1941, prices were 4 or 5 centavos for a kilo of resin with a corresponding drop in turpentine prices.

HUNTING

224 Probably no one in Cherán derives any considerable part of his livelihood from hunting. Some men hunt casually because their farms or lumbering activities take them where game is more plentiful. Others hunt a good deal because they enjoy it. Finally, sometimes people hunt because they are poor and thus can augment their food supply or income.

The most commonly hunted animals are deer, peccary (guákin), squirrels (both ordinary, kuínike, and flying squirrels), rabbits, quail, pigeons, and less commonly, armadillos. Other local wild animals are not eaten. Heavy rifles
[411] are used for large animals, usually .30 or .32 caliber, and .22 caliber rifles for squirrels.

Deer are sometimes trapped in pits in the mountains. Squirrels are caught in snares. Horsehair threads are used to make snares to
223 catch quail and pigeons. Quail snares are hung

222 mestizo towns nearby for the manufacture of scrubbing brushes. This activity is not peculiar to Tarascans, for it is carried on by both mestizos and Indians in high altitudes of the Mesa Central where the grass grows in abundance.

263 Before the eruption of Parícutin in 1943, honey
222 gathering was an important collecting activity in the Sierra. The heavy fall of volcanic ash killed or drove away all wild bees in the area, terminating the ancient trade of the *panaleros*, or honey gatherers. Formerly there were 15 *panaleros* in Urapicho, and several in Cherán and Tanaco. In the spring of 1946 it was rumored in some pueblos farthest from the volcano that a few swarms of bees were returning. (See Beals, 1946, pp. 13–14, for a description of honey collecting in the Sierra.)

HUNTING ACTIVITIES

224 In pre-Conquest times hunting formed a significant part of the food quest among the Tarascans. Deer, rabbit, and grouse were hunted in the Sierra, while migratory waterfowl, chiefly ducks, were taken in the Lake area (Relación de Michoacán, p. 15). Today only duck hunting on Lake Pátzcuaro still has economic importance, and there it is limited chiefly to fishers—the islanders and some *rancheros* on the Tarıu-k'eri Peninsula. Nine varieties of migratory ducks (principally of the genera *Nyroca*, *Mareca*, and *Nettion*) are recognized by the fishermen. Customarily bird hunting starts on the Día de los Muertos fiestas (October 31 and November 1), when as many as 100 ducks are killed by a single hunter, and continues until the departure of the flocks in late March. The p'atámu, or spear propelled with the
● 411 throwing stick (ɬapáki, or the Nahuatl *atlatl*), is still employed by many duck hunters. The spear, with a *carrizo* handle 3 m. long, carries 3 points, called the *fisga* (k'enčéta), each 7 cm. in length (fig. 5). Old flintlocks (*carabinas de chispas*) are also used by the Urandén islanders, but many modern hunters from Janitzio possess modern shotguns. Ducks are eaten in the Lake pueblos and many are sold in Pátzcuaro. Waterfowl are hunted by Tarascans likewise in the Zacapu Basin.

224 In the Sierra, hunting is looked upon as a
[517] pastime by most modern Indians. Men and boys often hunt deer, squirrels, and rabbits with flintlocks and some modern rifles. Game, however, is largely depleted in the Sierra. Beals

[Text continues bottom of P. 52b--Analyst]

[P. 52-a]

●411

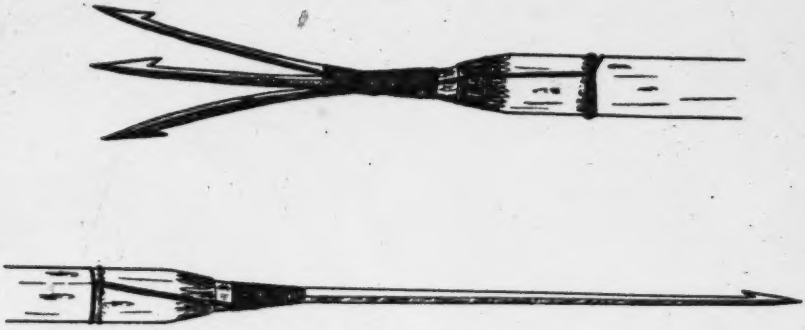

FIGURE 5.—The fish spear (above) and *fiage* (below). Approximately ⅛ natural size.